

Remarks

The present application was filed on May 19, 2004. A preliminary amendment was filed along with the application which included amendments to bring the claims into compliance with USPTO standards. Attached is a photocopy of the acknowledgment postcard showing that the patent office received these documents.

The Examiner issued a first Office Action on January 5, 2007 in which he objected to claims 5-10 and 13 as being in improper form. To ensure that the Examiner had given proper consideration to the preliminary amendment which was intended to correct the improper form of the originally filed claims, an attorney for Applicants telephoned the Examiner on January 29, 2007.

During this telephone conversation, the preliminary amendment was brought to the attention of the Examiner for the first time. The Examiner agreed that he would issue a new, non-final Office Action after Applicants filed a response describing what happened.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding Office Action in light of the preliminary amendment and favorable consideration of the claims as they currently stand in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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